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Tientsin Area

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1. In February 1950, the Chinese Communist forces began conscription in the Tientsin area of men between eighteen and forty years old and women over eighteen. The conscripts are sent to Hsi Wang Mu T'ai (西王母台), Ching Hsien (116-16, 37-42), in Hopei, for training. Upon completion of the course, they are stationed in Tsingtao and other areas. Sons of wealthy families are particularly subject to conscription.
2. The training camp at Ching Hsien has been constructed since October 1949. The place was chosen as a secure location because it is about two hundred kilometers from Tientsin, accessible only by highway and without rail connections. Large-scale installations for military training are in use.
3. In February 1950, soldiers were billeted in ordinary farm houses in the vicinity while new army barracks were being constructed. Local farmers, both men and women, were forced to work on the military construction.

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